

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15981 051807Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EA-11 EB-11 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8536

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15981

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, GW

SUBJECT: EGON BAHR VISIT TO LONDON, OCT 29-30

REF: LONDON 12786

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN NOV 5 BRIEFING FOR EMBOFF, FONOFF

DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICA/NORTH EUROPE CONFIRMED REFTEL

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PAGE 02 BONN 15981 051807Z

REPORT ON EGON BAHR VISIT TO LONDON AND ADDED THE

FOLLOWING POINTS. END SUMMARY

1. BAHR SAID GERMAN OSTPOLITIK HAD HIT A DETOUR IN THE ROAD AS A RESULT OF THE EASTERN POSITION CONCERNING BERLIN REPRESENTATION AND DUE TO THE LACK OF GDR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING INTER-GERMAN RELATIONS. BAHR SAID PRAGUE, BUDAPEST, AND SOFIA WERE INTERESTED IN MOVING FORWARD BUT WOULD NOT DO SO UNTIL MOSCOW FIRST GAVE THE GREEN LIGHT ON THE BERLIN QUESTION. BAHR HOPED THAT SCHEEL WOULD BRING BACK A FORTHCOMING SOVIET APPROACH FROM MOSCOW. THE GDR WAS ANOTHER STORY HOWEVER. BAHR SAID THE GDR FEARED THAT ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS WOULD STRENGTHEN A TREND TOWARD CLOSER INTER-GERMAN RELATIONS; THEREFORE, EAST GERMANY WAS IN NO HURRY CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN FRG PERMANENT PRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN.

2. COMMENTING FURTHER ON RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, BAHR SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE UK AS ONE OF THE FOUR POWERS TO REMIND THE GDR FROM TIME TO TIME OF ITS SPECIAL INTERESTS AND TO ASSURE, AS A SIGNATORY OF THE QUADRIPARTITE BERLIN AGREEMENT, THAT THE GDR DID NOT IMPEDE THE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THAT AGREEMENT. AS REPORTED REFTEL PARA 6, THE BRITISH AGREED TO BAHR'S REQUEST THAT LONDON WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER SCHEEL'S NOV 22-23 VISIT TO LONDON BEFORE DECIDING TO SEND A BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO EAST BERLIN.

3. TURNING TO RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, BAHR SAID HE THOUGHT BREZHNEV HAD, SINCE APRIL 1973, OBTAINED A RELATIVELY SECURE MAJORITY IN THE POLITBURO. BAHR EMPHASIZED THE SOVIET DESIRE TO CLOSE THE TECHNICAL GAP WITH THE WEST. HE NOTED THAT THE U.S. PROBABLY SOON WOULD BECOME THE SOVIET UNION'S TOP TRADING PARTNER AND THAT JAPAN WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN INTENSIFYING ITS COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW.

4. AS TO ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE, BAHR SAID THE FRG PREFERRED BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL EAST EUROPEAN STATES RATHER THAN
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PAGE 03 BONN 15981 051807Z

EC/COMECON RELATIONS. THE BILATERAL APPROACH, IN BAHR'S VIEW, TENDED TO DILUTE SOVIET INFLUENCE AND TO ENHANCE THE EE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THEIR OWN INTERESTS INTO ACCOUNT. AS TO JOINT PROJECTS, BAHR SAID BONN PREFERS COMMON WEST EUROPEAN PROJECTS WITH THE EAST AS OPPOSED TO, FOR EXAMPLE, FRG/SOVIET JOINT PROJECTS. IN THE LONGER RUN, BAHR SAID THE PROBLEM OF OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY WOULD HAVE TO BE EXAMINED.

5. COMMENT. FONOFF REPS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT SCHEEL
WAS NOT ENTIRELY HAPPY WITH THE ELABORATE ATTENTION
ACCORDED TO BAHR IN LONDON. WHILE THIS SCHEEL MOMENTARY
PIQUE WILL NOT TARNISH THE CURRENTLY CLOSE ANGLO/
GERMAN RELATIONS, THE INCIDENT DOES AGAIN DEMONSTRATE
SCHEEL'S SENSITIVITY, HEIGHTENED SINCE THE
RECENT PERAMBULATIONS OF WEHNER TO PROVE THAT THERE
IS ONLY ONE FOREIGN MINISTER IN BONN.
HILLENBRAND

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